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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q56893

Kazuomi KOBAYASHI, et al.

Allowed: April 14, 2004

Appln. No.: 09/443,460

Group Art Unit: 1733

Confirmation No.: 7280

Examiner: Justin R. FISCHER

Filed: November 19, 1999

For: PNEUMATIC TIRES

**COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT
OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants note that the Examiner's particular comments regarding the reasons for allowance do not accurately reflect the claim language. For instance, the claims do not require that the rubber protection sheet be located between the bead filler and the adjacent carcass ply; rather, the claims simply require the carcass ply "nearest thereto" or an "innermost carcass ply". There are numerous instances of paraphrasing of the claims throughout the Examiner's comments.

In addition, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's interpretation of the cited prior art documents. For instance, a run-flat pneumatic tire of the present invention having a rubber reinforcing layer and a pneumatic tire of Osawa without a rubber reinforcing layer largely differ in construction, especially, in a deformation behavior of the tire during run-flat running.

Applicants submit that the scope of the claims should be governed by the actual claim language, not by the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 22, 2004